

Foreword

They, the ruling elites, were in for a great shock. They thought they had everything under control, negotiation processes, yes or no to violence and war, control of the media by making Western media copies of US media.

And then terrorism came from below, shattering their monopoly on violence.

And then the digital age came from below, shattering their monopoly on truth, threatened by alternative news and views media generally and social media particularly.

This is our present reality, and this book examines global peace in the digital age, well knowing that enlightened people go digital to know about reality. Both empirical reality--the facts--and potential reality--the visions.

The excellent chapters are well organized with such headings as social action, world government, media, leadership and so on. The chapter titles are all highly appetizing. The book is a must.

Let me add some personal observations. I have been a mediator from 1958, very soon 60 years, in about 150 conflicts involving about 150 of the world's territorial, not digital, countries. And some years ago, we, Transcend, could claim some success—shared with others, of course—in at least 35 of them—see www.transcend.org for our track record. What was the root of that?

Then we took the step from diagnosis-analysis via prognosis-forecasting (if nothing is done) to therapy-remedies with visions of what might be done. The point is not to get stuck in the bad university habit of only analysis with criticism, no constructive visions with solutions, and conciliation for traumas.

I find optimism warranted, but at a price. Nor only hard work to identify the underlying conflicts and traumas and dialogues to get the views, the narratives, the goals of the parties. But, more taxing, the creative work of bridging the gaps between the legitimate goals of all the parties.

Training and experience help. Thus, with my Japanese wife, I have been working very much recently on East Asia and have produced a book, *People's Peace*, in Japanese, to be translated into Chinese and Korean. With many recommendations, including clearing the problematic past with international fact-finding commissions, solving the problems of the present involving contested islands through joint ownership sharing benefits and costs, and sharing the future in an Association of Northeast Asian Nations, ANEAN, modeled on the successful ASEAN. A vision, let us see if it works, after some time.

Optimism is needed, pessimism is cheap, but optimism assumes hard work.

Good luck, everybody!

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